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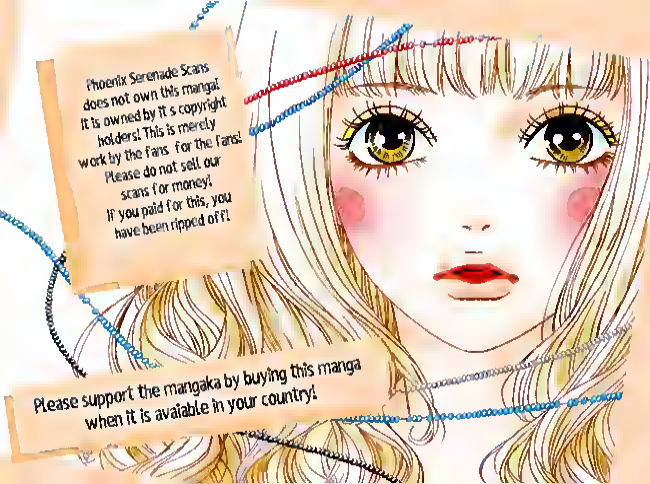
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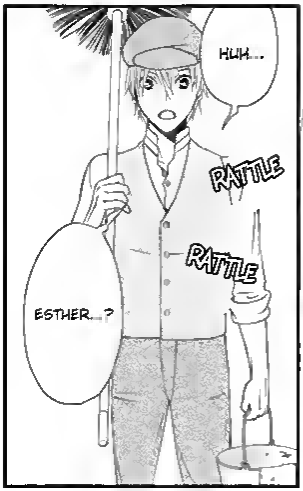
WHOAH! THE NUMBER OF CARRIAGES HERE IS AMAZING!
IS THERE A FESTIVAL TODAY!?
AT THIS TIME OF THE YEAR THE CONGRESS IS USUALLY IN SESSION
RIGHT, YOU'RE FROM THE EAST END, SO YOU PROBABLY DON'T KNOW
THAT'S WHY ALL ARISTOCRATS ARE MOVING FROM THEIR MANOR HOUSES BACK IN THE COUNTRY TO THEIR TOWN HOUSES HERE IN LONDON ALL AT ONCE

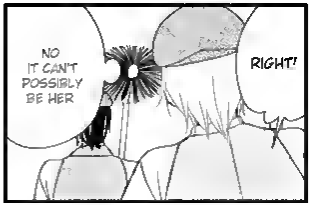
Episode. 21

THE GLAMOROUS SOCIAL SEASON IS ABOUT TO BEGIN, HUH?
I SEE, SO THIS IS WHAT THAT RUMOURED "SEASON" IS LIKE ...
WELL, FOR US IT'S LIKE AN EVENT FROM ANOTHER WORLD
THOUGH I'M GRATEFUL THAT WE CHIMNEY SWEEPERS LAND MORE JOBS THIS WAY
SIGH YEAH, I GUESS SO.
RATTLE
RATTLE

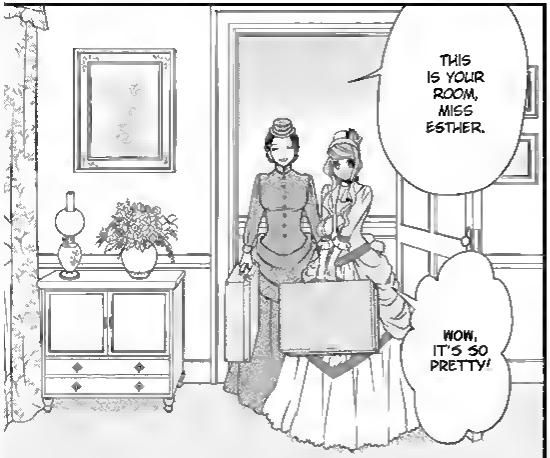

HUH...
RATTLE
RATTLE
ESTHER...?

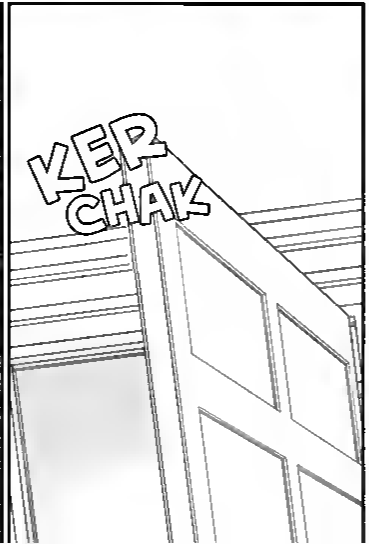
ESTHER,
WE'RE REACHING THE TOWN HOUSE.

.....
OI, PAUL!
IT'S TIME TO GET BACK TO THE EASTERN DISTRICT FOR OUR NEXT JOB!

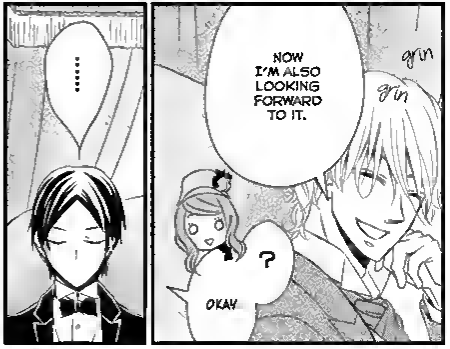

RIGHT!
NO IT CAN'T POSSIBLY BE HER

I'M SO EXCITED.
EXCITED?
WE STAYED HERE FOR A NIGHT TO WATCH THE OPERA THE LAST TIME
YES,
BUT THAT WAS ONLY FOR A LITTLE WHILE
THE THOUGHT THAT THIS MIGHT BE THE START OF A NEW LIFE
TOGETHER WITH YOU AND ALL THE OTHERS
MAKES ME LOOK FORWARD TO IT THIS MUCH
Chuckle
TRUE


THIS IS YOUR ROOM, MISS ESTHER.
WOW, IT'S SO PRETTY!

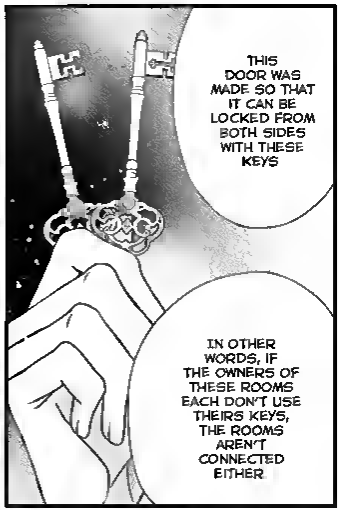

KER CHAK

IN THIS NEW ENVIRONMENT, IT WOULD BE NICE IF WE...
MADE SOME SORT OF PROGRESS.


.....
NOW I'M ALSO LOOKING FORWARD TO IT.
grin
grin
?
OKAY

Knock Knock Knock
LEON?!
creak
OH? THERE'S SOMEONE AT THE DOOR INSIDE?
clack clack
ETHER, I'M COMING IN
AH, SORRY FOR PEEPING...
I DON'T MIND. WE'RE ABOUT TO BECOME AN ACTUAL MARRIED COUPLE SOON ANYWAY.
grin
grin
SO THAT'S YOUR ROOM?
YEAH, A HUSBAND'S BEDROOM BEING CONNECTED TO HIS WIFE'S IS WHAT'S PROPER, RIGHT?

WITH THIS KEY,
YOU CAN COME IN ANYTIME YOU LIKE. I DON'T MIND AT ALL.


THIS DOOR WAS MADE SO THAT IT CAN BE LOCKED FROM BOTH SIDES WITH THESE KEYS
IN OTHER WORDS, IF THE OWNERS OF THESE ROOMS EACH DON'T USE THEIRS KEYS, THE ROOMS AREN'T CONNECTED EITHER

ONE OF THESE IS YOURS, ESTHER
OKAY

I WON'T BE LOCKING MY SIDE OF THE ROOM, SO

IS THAT SO. .
so it's fair!
I WILL RE LEAVING MY OOOR OPEN TOO SO IT'S FINE.
THEN, IF I OPEN THE DOOR TO YOUR ROOM WHILE YOU'RE CHANGING,
OR CLIMB INTO YOUR BED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT.
YOU DEFINITELY WILL NOT MIND AT ALL, RIGHT?
HUH?
EH....
NO!
You can't do that!

PUSH
I'D BE EMBARRASSED IF YOU SAW HOW I SLEEP,
SO,
.....
I'LL BE SURE TO KEEP MY DOOR LOCKED
LEON, YOU'RE SO MEAN
MISS MASON.
.....
WHAT IS SO FUNNY?
NO IT'S NOTHING
YOUR SHOULDERS ARE SHAKING.
?

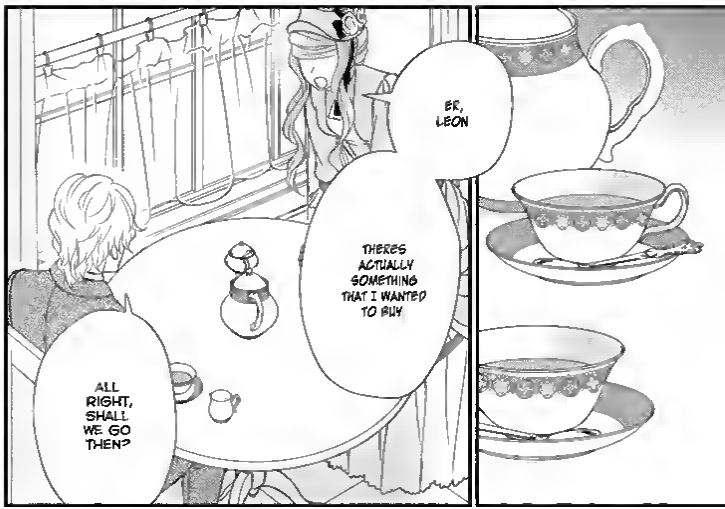
SO TODAY IS THE FIRST DAY OF OUR HOLIDAY.
pinch
? ?
IS THERE ANY PLACE THAT YOU'D LIKE TO VISIT?
Going out with Leon?!
Have a safe trip
HAVE YOU BEEN HERE BEFORE?
YES. I USED TO COME TO THIS MARKET
TOGETHER WITH MY MOTHER AND AL

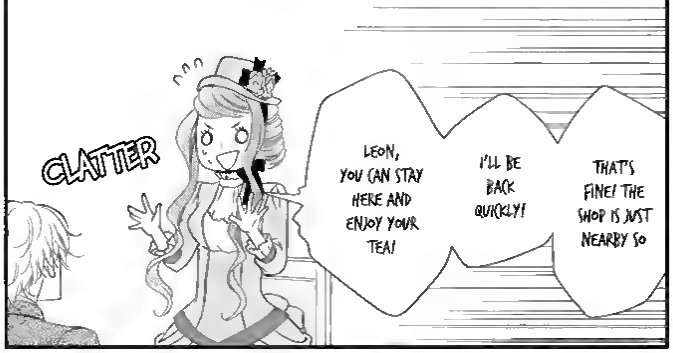
I SEE, THE THREE OF YOU TOGETHER...
WHAT GARRY SAID THAT TIME WHEN WE WERE AT THE BAZAAR ACTUALLY CAME TRUE
"IT WOULD BE NICE IF YOU COULD TAKE A LOOK AROUND WITH LEON NEXT TIME"
I'M HAPPY THAT I GOT TO COME HERE TOGETHER WITH YOU, LEON.
SURE, IT'S MY PLEASURE
MY, IT'S SO PRETTY!
HMM? A RING?

IT'S BEAUTIFUL.
BUT IT HAS THE SAME COLOUR AS YOUR EYES
Excuse me sir please don't.
THIS IS A GLASS JEWEL, ISN'T IT?
HM?
!!!
I'LL TAKE THIS.
Many thanks!
NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT I-
ARE YOU SAYING MY EYES LOOK THE SAME AS SOME REPLICA?
BUT-
IT'S CHEAP. GIVE ME YOUR HAND
YOU SHOULDN'T BUY THAT KIND OF EXPENSIVE THING
WAAAA-
DON'T, LEON!

SOON I'LL BE GIVING YOU THE REAL THING,
SO UNTIL THEN, LEAVE THIS ON.
IT'S NICE.
But...
THANK YOU VERY MUCH
That day is never going to come.
Wow! It's so pretty
Please...

Please,
just for a little
longer.

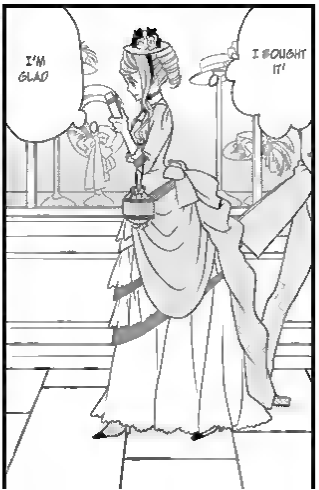

ER, LEON
THERE'S ACTUALLY SOMETHING THAT I WANTED TO BUY
ALL RIGHT, SHALL WE GO THEN?


CLATTER
LEON, YOU CAN STAY HERE AND ENJOY YOUR TEA!
I'LL BE BACK QUICKLY!
THAT'S FINE! THE SHOP IS JUST NEARBY SO

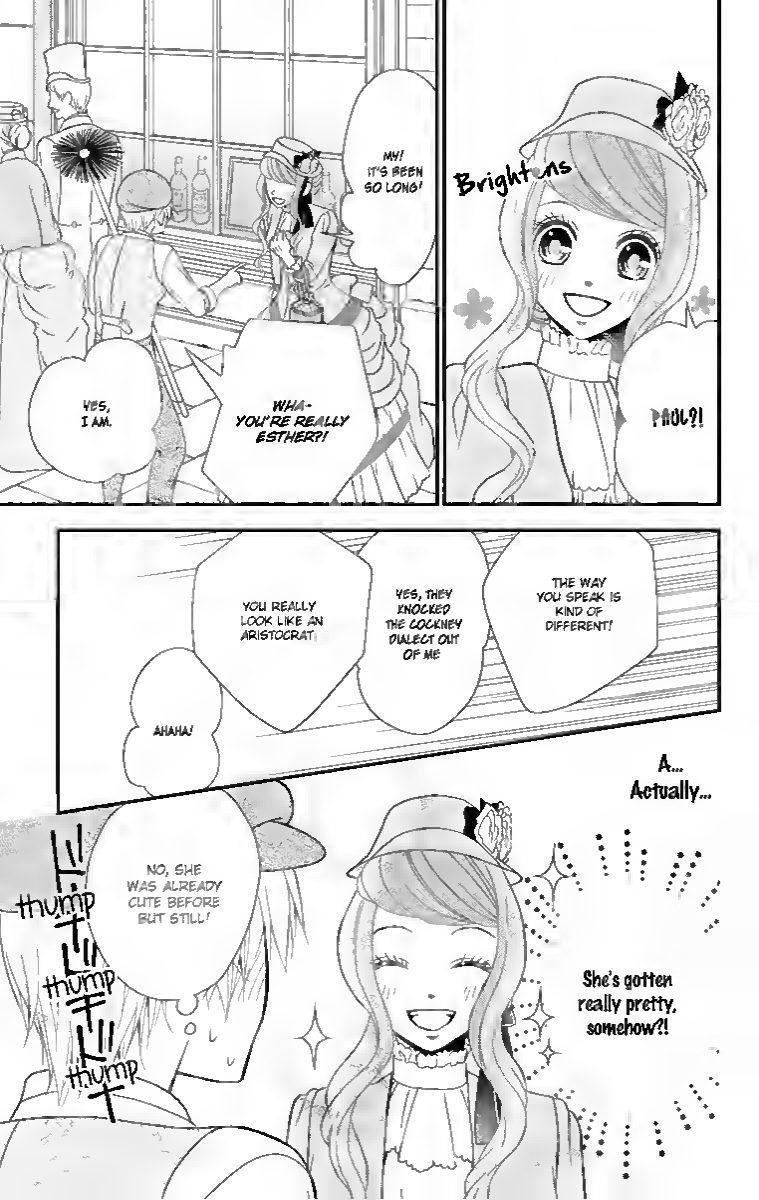
PHEW

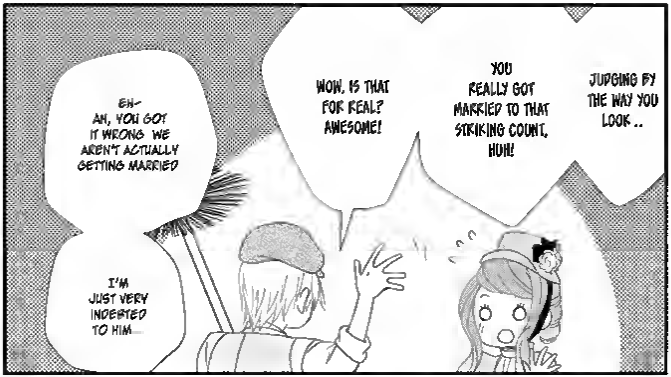
.....?

I TOOK TOO MUCH TIME WORRYING OVER THIS
I SHOULD HURRY BACK
!


I'M GLAD
I BOUGHT IT!

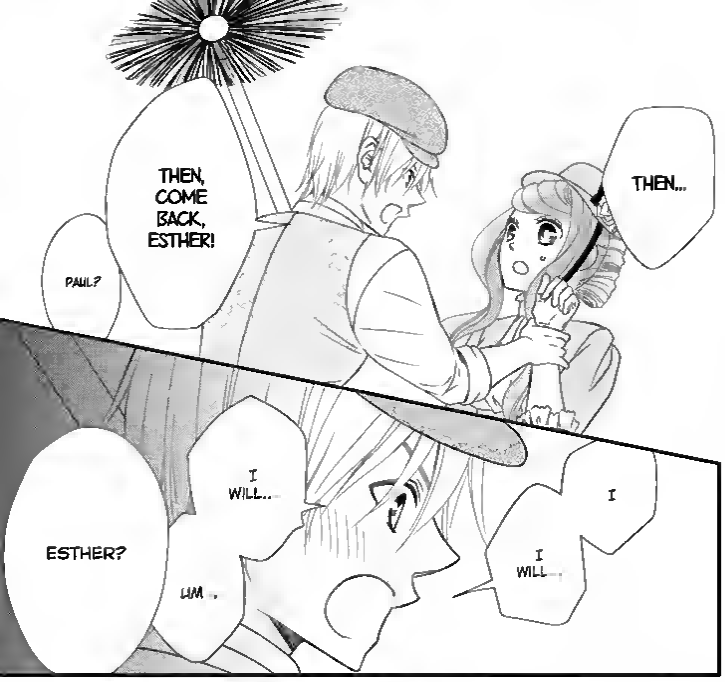
ESTHER?!
E...


MY! IT'S BEEN SO LONG!
YES, I AM.
WHA- YOU'RE REALLY ESTHER?!
Brightens
HUH?!
YOU REALLY LOOK LIKE AN ARISTOCRAT!
YES, THEY KNOCKED THE COCKNEY DIALECT OUT OF ME
THE WAY YOU SPEAK IS KIND OF DIFFERENT!
AHAHA!
A... Actually...
NO, SHE WAS ALREADY CUTE BEFORE BUT STILL!
thump
thump
thump
She's gotten really pretty, somehow?!


EH-
AH, YOU GOT IT WRONG WE AREN'T ACTUALLY GETTING MARRIED
I'M JUST VERY INDEBTED TO HIM
WOW, IS THAT FOR REAL? AWESOME!
YOU REALLY GOT MARRIED TO THAT STRIKING COUNT, HUH!
JUDGING BY THE WAY YOU LOOK ..

ESTHER

A COMMONER LIKE ME GETTING MARRIED TO A COUNT IS JUST, WELL
THAT KIND OF THING IT'S NOT POSSIBLE


THEN, COME BACK, ESTHER!
PAUL?
THEN...
I WILL...
ESTHER?
I WILL...
I

YOU WERE LATE SO I CAME TO GET YOU BUT-

LEON!
YOU'RE THE COOL GUY FROM THAT TIME...
YOUNG MAN,
WHAT BUSINESS DO YOU HAVE WITH MY WIFE?
EH WIFE? BUT YOU'RE NOT MARRIED YET...
grab

SHE BELONGS TO ME
SORRY, I'M AFRAID YOU HAVE TO GIVE UP ON HER, LAD.
This again?
...
LEON-
SFX CLACK CLACK CLACK
LEON.
WAIT UP!
Y... YEAH...
AH- THANKS, PAUL!
I WAS GLAD TO SEE YOU!

I APOLOGIZE...
FOR TAKING SO LONG TO RETURN...
BUT...
PAUL IS MY PRECIOUS FRIEND.
EARLIER WHEN HE SPOTTED ME, HE CALLED OUT TO ME.
BUT YOU WERE SO MEAN TO HIM
sigh
IT SEEMS YOU STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND.

NO MATTER WHAT YOU SAY,
THE MAN WHO STOLE YOUR FIRST KISS,
IS THE 'LOVE RIVAL' WHOM I DETEST MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE.
HUH?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? PAUL AND I DIDN'T... CALLING HIM A LOVE RIVAL...
GEEZ! YOU'RE TEASING ME AGAIN!
.....
SLIPPING AWAY FROM OUR TEA BREAK WAS NOT TO MEET WITH ANOTHER MAN?
You're wrong!

THEN, WHAT DID YOU BUY?
!
THAT IS... WELL...
THIS IS...
IT'S A VERY BELATED GIFT BUT...
HERE'S YOUR CHRISTMAS PRESENT!

...Huh?
I SAW IT WHEN I WAS DOING CHRISTMAS SHOPPING AND I WANTED TO GIVE IT TO YOU
BUT AT THAT TIME I DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH MONEY TO BUY IT
YOU KNOW I WOULDN'T MIND IF YOU USED THAT SMALL AMOUNT OF ALLOWANCE I GAVE YOU ON YOURSELF...
NO, YOU'VE ALREADY GIVEN ME MORE THAN ENOUGH
CAN I OPEN IT?
WHAT? RIGHT HERE?
A FOUNTAIN PEN?
I EVEN ASKED THE SHOPKEEPER FOR ADVICE BUT I DIDN'T KNOW IF YOU WOULD LIKE IT
BUT I THOUGHT THAT THE DESIGN I THOUGHT IT KIND OF SUITED YOU...
ESTHER-

THERE'S NO REASON
THAT I WOULD NOT LIKE IT.
THANK YOU.

Dear mother in heaven,
Geez!
I know, why don't we take it slow on the way back to the mansion.
DON'T! WE'RE IN PUBLIC!
THEN SHALL WE DO IT IN THE CARRIAGE?
NO!

Back then, I was so blinded by my happiness,
That I was unable to notice anything else around me.
Like the moment of our bitter parting

That was stealing up on us, slowly but surely...

TO BE CONTINUED